

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

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## **U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MAKES CRIME PAY IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**

United States Attorney Ronald J. Tenpas announced today that his office was very effective in making crime pay their debts to the United States in the recently completed fiscal year. Federal fiscal year 2004 runs from October 1, 2003, to September 30, 2004. During that period, the United States Attorneys Office for the Southern District of Illinois collected a total of Six Hundred Thirty-Three Million Four Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars and Eighty Four Cents (\$633,479,357.84). This amount consisted of Two Hundred Nine Million Four Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred-Twelve Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$209,458,212.39) in criminal collections and Four Hundred Twenty-Four Million Twenty-One Thousand One Hundred Forty-Five Dollars and Forty-Five Cents (\$424,021,145.45) in civil collections.

The amount collected was far in excess of the office operating budget, and allowed the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois to operate at a profit for the fiscal year. U.S. Attorney Tenpas pointed out that for every dollar his office spent on collection activities it was able to return Seven Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (\$759.33). The criminal collections consisted of restitution to crime victims as well as fines and special assessments. The civil collections consisted of restitution in civil fraud cases, mortgage foreclosures, defaulted student loans, bankruptcy and other debts due the United States.

The collections in criminal cases other than restitution are turned over to the Crime Victim's Fund which is administered by the United States Department of Justice for the benefit of victims of crime. The restitution is paid directly to the crime victims to compensate them for their losses.